

The CALAMITY  
OF THE

Church of England,

UNDER A  
PRESBYTERIAN Government;  
Made VISIBLE.

OR, THE

Measures they took for securing

THEIR

Common-Wealth.

Set forth in its true Colours, which  
*Policy and Prudence* of theirs may  
serve for a Rule, and Precedent;  
for other PRINCES and States,  
to walk by.

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LONDON.

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**A Proclamation Prohibiting Delinquents, to Bare Office ; or to have any Voice, or Vote in the Election of any Publick Officer.**

**H**IS Highness the Lord Protector hath by and with the Advice, and Consent of his Council ; thought fit to Publish and Declare, and doth hereby signifie his Will and Pleasure to be ; That no Person or Persons, of what Quality, or Condition soever ; whose Estates have at any time heretofore been duly Sequestred ; or their Persons Imprisoned for their Delinquency, or who did Subscribe or Abet the said Treasonable Engagement, ( 1647 ) or have been in any wise Aiding, Assisting or Abetting the late King or his Family, or Allies ; or any other the Enemies of this State and Common-wealth, shall be Elected or give his or their Voice or Vote, in the Election of any Person or Persons, to any Office or Offices, Place or Places of Trust, Power, or Government within this Common-wealth ; or shall hold Exercise ; or Execute, by him, or themselves, or his or their Deputies or Assignes, any such Office or Offices ; Place or Places within the same, until his Highness Command be further known, on pain of his Highness displeasure, and such Penalties and Punishments as may and will be severally inflicted on them, as

Disturbers of the publick Peace, and Contem-  
ners of his Highness's just Command herein,  
Sc. *Septemb. 21. 1655.*

This was the Method they took to secure  
their Common-wealth Government ; but now  
observe, here follows many other Steps that may  
be of Use to the Kingdom in General.

It being an Extract of some Clauses and  
passages out of the humble Petition and Advice  
of the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses Assembled  
in the Parliament of the *Common-wealth*, which  
was presented to his Highness *Oliver Cromwell*,  
Lord Protector of *Great Britain*, and *Ireland*;  
May 25th 1657: And his Highness most Gra-  
cious Answerthereunto, was read by the Clerk  
of the Parliament, in these Words :

We the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses in  
this present Parliament Assembled, taking into  
our most serious Considerations, the present  
state of these Three Nations, joyn'd and  
united under your Highness's Protection, can-  
not but in the first Place, *With all Thankfulness*  
*acknowledge the wonderful mercy of Almighty God,*  
*delivering us from the Tyranny and Bondage ;*  
*which in our Spiritual and Civil Concernments, which*  
*the late King and his Party, design'd to bring Us*  
*under, and pursued the effecting thereof, by a long*  
*and Bloody War, &c. See Scobels Acts, Folio*  
*8. Part 2.*

That all every Person and Persons, who have  
aided, Abetted, Advised, or Assisted in  
any War against the Parliament, since the  
first



first Day of *June* 1641. Unless he or they have since  
 born Arms, for the Parliament or your Highness;  
 or otherwise given signal Testimony of his or their  
 good affection, to the Common-wealth, and con-  
 tinued faithful to the same, and all such as have  
 been actually engaged in any Plot, Conspiracy, or  
 design against the Person of your Highness, or in  
 any Insurrection or Rebellion in *England*, or *Wales*;  
 since the 16 day of *Decem.* 1658. Shall be for ever  
 disabled, and made incapable to be Elected, or  
 give any Vote in the Election of any Member, to  
 sit or serve in this present Parliament.

That for *Scotland*, none be capable to Elect, or  
 be Elected, to sit or serve in Parliament; who  
 have been in Arms, against that *Protector* of *Eng-*  
*land*, or against the Parliament in *Scotland*, before  
 the 1st of *April* 1648. Except such as have borne  
 Arms in the Service of the Parliament of *England*,  
 or his Highness/s; or given other signal Testimo-  
 ny of their good affection: Nor any that since the  
 said first day of *April*, 1648. have been in Arms,  
 or otherwise Aided, Abetted, Advised, or Assisted  
 in any War against the Parliament of *England*, or  
 your Highness; except such as have since the first  
 day of *March*, 1651, have lived Peaceably, and  
 thereby given Testimony of their good affection,  
 to the Parliament, and your Highness. *Scob. fol.*  
 379. Part 2.

That all Votes and Elections, given or made  
 contrary, or not according to the Qualifications  
 aforesaid, shall be Void ann of Non-effect; and  
 that if any Person or Persons so incapable as afore-  
 said, shall give his or their Vote, for Electing  
 of Members to serve in Parliament: All and every  
 such Person and Persons so Electing, shall lose and  
 Forfeit one Years Value, of his and their respec-  
 tive Personal Estates. *Ibid.*

A Confession of Faith to be agreed by your Highness and the Parliament, according to the rule or Warrant of the Scriptures to be asserted, held forth, and recommended to the People of these Nations, so that this Liberty be not extended to Popery and Prelacy, &c.

That all and every Person and Persons who have Aided Abetted, Advised or Assisted in any War against the Parliament, since the First Day of January 1641. (unless he or they have since born Arms for the Parliament or your Highness, or otherwise given signal Testimony of his or their good Affection to the Commonwealth, and continued faithful to the same) and all such as have been actually Engaged in any Plot, Conspiracy, or Design against the Person of your Highness, or in any Insurrection or Rebellion in England, or Wales, since the Sixteenth Day of December, 1659.

And for Scotland, That all and every Person or Persons who have been in Arms against the Parliament in Scotland, before the first Day of April, 1648. (except such as have since born Arms in the Service of the Parliament of England, or your Highness, or given other signal proofs of their good Affection, &c.) and every person, or persons that since the said First Day of April 1648, have been in Arms, or otherwise aided, assisted, abetted in any War against the Parliament of England and your Highness, except such Persons who having been in Arms, &c. since the first Day of April 1648. and were not in Arms against the Parliament of England, or against the Parliament of Scotland, before the first Day of April 1641 And have since the first day of March 1651 (Old Style) lived peaceably, and thereby given Testimony of their good Affection to the Parliament, and your Highness, be made incapable, &c. Now

Now I will give you a touch here of *Olivers* Politicks, tho' of a former Date.

We have (says he) in our own Judgment, such clear and convincing Grounds, to justify our Proceedings with these Men, (the Cavaliers) which could scarcely be expected in Cases of secret Treasons and Conspiracies; a bare correspondence herein hath been always accounted Capital; and if the Supreme Magistrate were in these cases tied up to the ordinary Rules, and had not Liberty to proceed, upon Illustrations of Reason, against those who are continually suspected; there wou'd be wanting in such a State the means of common safety. Conspiracies could never be prevented, nor would the Precipitations of our Enemies, from one mischievous Design to another, ever hurt them.

*A Declaration of his Highness, by the Advice of his Council, Octob. 31. 1655. p. 36.*

And again, That Character of Difference between them and the rest of the People, which is now put upon them, is occasion'd by Themselves, not by Us; There is nothing they have more industriously laboured in than this, to keep themselves separated and distinguished from the well affected of this Nation. To which end they have kept their Conversation apart, as if they wou'd avoid the very beginnings of Union; have Bred and Educated their Children by the Sequestered and Ejected Clergy, &c. *Ibid. pag. 38.*

And



And therefore we leave to all Mankind to judge, whether we ought not to be timely jealous of that Separation, and to protect against them, as they may be at the Charge of those Remedies which are required against the Dangers they have bred. *Ibid. pag. 39.*

Here follows a Taste of the Kindness of our double-refin'd Dissenting Reformers, to the Orthodox Clergy, as well as Laity, and you are like to take it at length as it comes to me.

*A Declaration of his Highness the Lord Protector, with the Advice of his Council, in order to the securing the Peace of this Commonwealth.*

His Highness the Lord Protector, upon Advice with his Council, finding it necessary for the Reasons, and upon the grounds expressed in the late Declaration, to use all good Means to secure the Peace of the Nation, and prevent future Troubles within the same, hath thought fit to Publish and declare, by and with the Consent and Advice of his Council, both Publish, Order and Declare, That no person or Persons whatsoever in *England* or *Wales*, whose Estates have been sequestered for Delinquency; or who were actually in Arms for the late King against the then Parliament, or for *Charles Stuart* his Son, or have adhered to, abetted or assisted the Forces raised against the said Parliament, do from and after the First Day of *December 1655*, buy, use, or

or keep in his or their House or Houses, or elsewhere, any Arms offensive or Defensive, upon pain that every person or persons so offending, shall forfeit and lose such Arms, and be otherwise proceeded against according to the Orders of his Highness and the Council, for securing the Peace of the Commonwealth.

And his Highness, by the Advice of his Privy Council, doth also Publish, Declare and Order, That no Person or Persons aforesaid, do from and after the 1st of *June* 1655. keep in their Houses or Families as Chaplains, or School-Masters for the Education of their Children, any Sequestred or rejected Minister, Fellow of a College, or School-Master, nor permit any of their Children to be taught by such, upon pain of being proceeded against, and punished in such sort as the said Orders do direct in such Cases.

And that no Person, who for Delinquency or Scandal hath been sequestred or Ejected, shall from and after the first Day of *January* aforesaid Preach in any publick Church, or at any private Meeting, or any other persons than those of his own Family, nor shall administer Baptism or the Lords Supper, or Marry any Persons, or use the Book of Common-prayer, or the Forms of Prayer therein contained, upon pain that every person so offending in any of the Premises, shall be proceeded against as by the said Order is provided and directed. *Novem. 24. 1655.*

Thus you may see from time to time what great Care they took to oppress the Loyal Perty, in order to Establish themselves, and if the Church ever means to keep her self secure from all her Enemies, they must exactly copy after their Precedent, and then they will have the same Success.

*F I N I S.*